

1660

1910

A HISTORY OF HATFIELD MASSACHUSETTS



IN THREE PARTS

- I. An Account of the Development of the Social and Industrial Life of the Town from its First Settlement.
- II. The Houses and Homes of Hatfield, with Personal Reminiscences of the Men and Women Who Have Lived there during the Last One Hundred Years; Brief Historical Accounts of the Religious Societies and of Smith Academy; Statistical Tables, etc.
- III. Genealogies of the Families of the First Settlers.

By DANIEL WHITE WELLS and
REUBEN FIELD WELLS

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

F. C. H. GIBBONS, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

1191011

Barnabas Hinsdale married the widow of Stephen Taylor in 1666 and lived in her house. Nathaniel Dickinson, Sr., had moved from Hadley and lived for a few years on the Benton lot. He returned to the other side of the river, where he died June 16, 1676. Thomas Meekins, Jr., lived on his father's lot when the latter moved his residence to the mill. Richard Fellows, 2d, and John Field owned the lots originally granted their fathers, who had both died.

	Rods wide.	Rods wide.	
			Thomas Bracy
William King	16		
Samuel Field	16		Highway to the river
Benjamin Waite	16		
John Graves, Jr.	16	20	Hezekiah Dickinson
Samuel Ball	16	20	William Scott
Robert Danks	16	16	Daniel Belden
		16	Samuel Allis
Deerfield Lane	8	16	Samuel Marsh
		16	Nathaniel Foote
Isaac Graves, Jr.	16	16	<i>Philip Russell</i>
Samuel Northam	16	16	<i>Samuel Gillett</i>
Richard Morton	20 □	18	<i>John Wells</i>
	Blacksmith's shop.		
Town lot	16	16	<i>John Coleman</i>
<i>John Hawkes</i>	16	16	<i>Samuel Belden</i>
Middle Lane			

CHART OF THE HOUSE LOTS AT THE UPPER END OF THE STREET,
Granted by 1675, those in italics also appearing on previous chart.

The wealth of the settlers increased at a moderate rate. There was not a great deal of trade. Supplies which could not be produced at home were bought of the Pynchons in Springfield in exchange for farm products. Grain, wool, yarn of woolen or flax, cloth, pork, and probably some beef were sent down the river to find a market in Boston or the Connecticut towns. In the almost patriarchal state of society that then existed the increase of the flocks and herds was the chief source of addition to property. As the animals became more numerous more land was brought under cultivation.

There was little currency in circulation and little need of it. "Provision pay" was legal tender for public and private debts. What money there was in circulation consisted mostly of Spanish reals and pieces-of-eight, the former being silver coins worth ninepence, or twelve and

in which they attempted to escape and were carried to death over the falls, the noise of whose waters had drowned the approach of the attacking party, known from this time as Turners Falls, after the leader of the expedition. The only loss to the English was one killed by his companions by mistake as he came out of a wigwam, and one wounded. The camp was wholly destroyed.

Disaster quickly overtook the victors, who delayed upon the spot too long. Other Indians were close by and an alarm was given in the other camps in the vicinity. The report that Philip was at hand with a thousand warriors caused a panic among the white troops. The men, exhausted by their long night march, were not in condition to make an orderly retreat and Captain Turner was suffering from illness. One party, guided by Hinsdale, became entangled in a swamp and all were lost. Benjamin Waite led his party safely away. Captain Turner received a mortal wound as he was crossing Green river. The command then fell to Captain Holyoke of Springfield, who did his best to preserve a semblance of order. The infuriated savages with whoops and yells surrounded the fleeing band on all sides in the thick woods, picking off many men, following as far as "The Bars" at Deerfield. When the expedition reached Hatfield again 45 men were missing, nearly one third of the number that set out, and two were mortally wounded. Two others reached the settlement that night, two on Sunday, and two on Monday. The total loss was 42, including the captain and one guide. The accounts of the loss of the Indians vary from 60 warriors to 400, including women and children. The following Hatfield men took part in the expedition: William Allis, son of the lieutenant, William Arms, Rev. Hope Atherton, Sergt. Robert Bardwell, Samuel Belden, Stephen Belden, John Colefax, Samuel Field, Nathaniel Foote, Samuel Gillett, William Scott, and Sergt. Benjamin Waite. William Allis, John Colefax, and Samuel Gillett were killed. Among those who found their way back to the settlements later than the main body was Rev. Hope Atherton. He never recovered from the exposure and died June 4, 1677. The story of his remarkable escape was read by him to his congregation after his sermon on Sunday, May 28:—

down the old house and replaced it by a more modern structure.

The next house was that of Elijah Bardwell, the son of Seth and Hannah Bardwell, who lived here with his wife, the daughter of Joseph Dickinson, and two children. Hannah, the daughter, married a Mr. Wright and removed to Deerfield, where she died. His son, Elijah, Jr., is still living. The house in which they lived has been removed to the Upper Lane, where it now stands. Between this and the next house there was, I think, a barn standing even with the street and a small red building used as a horse shed. The original owner of the Bardwell lot was Samuel Marsh, and the line between him and Nathaniel Foote was directly opposite the south boundary of the Upper Lane.

On the next lot stood the house which was occupied by the widow of Elihu Dickinson with two of her sons, William and Silas. Silas died unmarried. William married a daughter of Lieut. Samuel Smith, and his son, William H. Dickinson, with his children are the sole representatives now living in Hatfield, of the Smith family, which was so numerous since my memory as to furnish on one occasion fourteen voters of that name. The old house has been removed into the Upper Lane and replaced by a very fine building. In front of the house there stood a very old buttonball, with a hole near the foot of its trunk so large that a good-sized boy could hide in it.

Lieutenant Samuel Smith lived in the next house with his wife, who was the sister of Daniel and Elijah White, and four daughters, and one son. These all with the exception of one daughter, who married William Dickinson, died in Hatfield unmarried. Mr. Smith was a very worthy man, the brother of Oliver Smith, and, I think, the oldest of the six brothers. The house showed little signs of paint and appeared to be considerably old. It is still standing. The original owner of this lot was Philip Russell, and it is the most northerly of the lots granted by the town of Hadley in 1661.

Ebenezer Morton lived in the next house with his wife, who was an Ingram from Amherst, and four sons and three daughters, all of whom with the exception of one unmarried daughter, who died in Hatfield, removed from town. The